My Dear Brother New Haven Nov 14. 1839

I have determined to break in upon my business & write you as otherwise for aught I see I should continue to postpone it until your return — When you paid so heavy postage I felt that I ought not to write unless I sent you a long letter — & writing therefore seemed a task — Now however as I understand the matter you will have no postage to pay & of course will not complain of my letter if not of the longest. — Of course I shall be often interrupted —

Nancys health has been exceedingly feeble during the last summer & I have not dared to be absent from home a single night since last July. She has been constantly threatened with miscarriage during her whole pregnancy — In the latter part of Sept Aunt Mary made us a visit She was quite unwell when she left Avon & took a severe cold on board the Canal Packet boat. After her arrival she continued to droop for more than a week & was then sick with lung fever. On the 5th 6th & 7th of October we did not expect her to live. Indeed on the evening of the 5th every preparation was made to *lay her out* in the expectation that she could not live through the night. The great care & excitement of course affected Nancy injuriously & on the 10th she was taken with labor pains & had every symptom of miscarriage. By the utmost care & attention however she was kept along under the care of our skilful nurse, by remaining perfectly still in bed until the 30th of Oct when she gave birth to a fine healthy boy of 8¼ lbs. Both mother & son have since done well aunt Mary gradually recovered her health under the care of another nurse until it was better as she thinks than when she left Avon — She returned home on Saturday last.

Nearly a year since George took charge of the books of Smith & Sherman hardware merchants in their Store in Chapel St. He then recd 3 Dlls pr day. He has continued there since. & now is engaged with Sherman who has bought out Smith. I do not known Know what salary he now receives. He is very attentive to his business & seems much more cheerful & happy than formerly. His wife & children are all well. Wm is now in a Hardware Store in Hartford — Their 2 youngest are fine healthy children.

Such prostration of business generally as now exists in this Country probably never before was known. No man can with safety engage in any business & the general feeling in the Community is that the less each individual does in the way of business the better. Last week the favourable result of the Election in the State of New York seemed to afford a gleam of hope but the news recd this morning that Massachusetts had gone over to the administration has cast a deeper gloom on every thing — What the results will be, or when we shall reach bottom, no one can conjecture. Unless some panic should occur which we cannot anticipate, the banks in New York & New England (except Rhode Island) will probably continue their payments. That course of policy bears tremendously upon the mercantile community & daily crushing them to the earth. Prices of produce & all provisions which have hitherto remained almost as high as in '36. have recently fallen exceedingly — Flour which was last year 8 @ 9 Drs is now about 5 Drs. Butter in Oneida & Herkimer Counties in New York (whence I obtain my winter supply) last year was given at 22c now it sells for 10c. Dry Goods have also fallen & are still to fall immensely. & immense losses must be sustained by the owners. In fact the tremendous contraction of the currency is reducing & will continue to reduce the price of all property. What is the prospect in respect to politics it is impossible now to say. There seemed some gleams of hope bursting upon us from New York. now all is again darkened by the news from Mass. I still hope that the results in Mass. is not so disastrous as is now represented —

My own business has been rather light this summer but has revived somewhat this fall. It was worth something over $300 last month, but we are becoming more like the western world than formerly. every thing is done on credit because there is no money in the country —

Sister E. has doubtless informed you of her plans for the winter. We rec'd a letter from her a day or two since. At its date she was just about leaving Buffalo for Scotia to spend the winter with Mrs. Romeyn. Romeyn is still living at S. in high style. & is said to be attending more to the practice of Law than formerly —

P.S. The prospect now seems to be that in Mass. Morton is elected governor by a bitter majority but that both branches of the Leg. are Whig. The Atlas (Boston) claims the Senate is Whig. If Morton succeeds he owes his success to the opposition to the 15 Gallon Law.

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I am very glad that you have concluded to remain & complete your work. It is better for the Institution in New York & for you that you should take time enough to finish your books in the best manner. Certainly it would be alike disastrous for that & for you — that you should make such efforts to finish it as seriously to impair your health or that you should finish it so hastily as not to sustain your reputation — The public expect much from you

Cornelia health is now good. She is taller & larger than her mother. I have this summer taught her to ride on horseback. She rides very well & has taken many rides of 10 miles each before breakfast with me. We are gratified that she proved herself the best scholar in all the branches of study she pursues in her school of nearly 40. altho my efforts were more directed to her health than her progress. Love to sister Therese, Mary & Eddy. Affectionately your brother Charles Robinson

Rev Edward Robinson D.D.
Berlin
Germany

With Mr Newton's
Compliments

Ch. Robinson
Nov. 14. 1839.
Rec'd Dec. 25.